



CHAIR REPORT

50th AGM 19th March 2024

The club entered 2023 looking forward to a summer with new courts & an anticipated increase in membership plus progress being made to replace the clubhouse with a more pleasing structure.

Early in the spring club coach, Sam Howlett, informed us that he wished to step away from full time coaching & the process to find a replacement began. Unfortunately it took several months before we were able to announce that Katie Brooks would become head coach. I would like to use this report to both welcome Katie, her junior coaching programme has resulted in an upturn in junior members & thank Sam Howlett for the work he did at the club over his years as coach plus an extra thank you for keeping some coaching going while the club looked for his replacement.

Away from the courts the important event has been the new clubhouse. First of all, I would like to extend a massive thank you to Simon Spanyol, club secretary, who has driven this project forward with considerable tenacity & dedication. As with all projects, there have been some bumps along the way; an EGM held in August to approve the purchase resulted in slightly re-siting the building which required a planning variation & now the wet weather is preventing the project being completed. After it being in discussion for 10 years or more to actually have a new building in place is a real positive for the club & it has been well received by members. It should be fully functional soon.

Membership numbers are increasing, albeit slowly, there has been an upward trajectory since the beginning of 2024, both juniors & full senior members. The committee will be focusing on membership this year; we ask members to get involved with suggestions for increasing & improving membership. A Monday morning club session has been added recently; other suggestions are some open sessions & regular Sunday tournaments, help to organise such events will be welcomed. The committee have been delighted with the level of attendance at club night sessions right through the winter months & thank the members for their support.

Our City League teams were happy to be back at Ketts Park in 2023 & visiting teams were pleased we had new courts! Once again there were 2 mens & a ladies team in action. The Men's A, having been promoted to Div 1 finished mid table; the Men's B came a creditable second in Div 6 & have been promoted to Division 5; the ladies also finished mid table, having been promoted. This year there will be a third mens team to allow more people the chance to play. Unfortunately the Veterans Mixed team were unable to complete their matches but the club is having another go this year & we are looking for someone to captain this. The Winter League team is again aiming to finish mid table & avoid relegation, not easy when often have to play strong teams aiming to climb the divisions. Thank you to all who ran a team.

Throughout the past year the committee have been a great support to me, giving their thoughts on many things & helping to keep the club running for which I thank them. Roger Tudor continues to oversee membership matters, lights, court bookings for club sessions & the money. Simon Spanyol has kept meetings on track with his minutes & liaises with South Norfolk Leisure as well being project manager for the clubhouse. Jerry Hazell has been on hand to deal with maintenance matters, Chris Harmer ran teams in 2023, Callum King continued to administer the website. Jo Dyer came on board as the welfare officer. Finally, volunteers are essential to clubs & we ask anyone interested in helping to let us know.

Sue Lord

17th March 2024